

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 226027

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 226027

EXDIS TOSEC 163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PK, PFOR

SUBJECT: USE OF JOINT STATEMENTS DURING SECRETARY'S SOUTH

ASIAN TRIP

REF: ISLAMABAD 9765

FOR ATHERTON FROM SOBER

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU A MESSAGE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BYROADE IN WHICH HE EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT THE PROBLEMS HE SEES CREATED BY JOINT STATEMENTS DURING EACH OF THE SECRETARY'S SOUTH ASIAN STOPS. HE RECOMMENDS THAT NONE BE ISSUED EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF DELHI WITH THE LATTER LIMITED TO A SPECIFIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE JOINT COMMISSION.

2. BYROADE'S CONCERNS ABOUT GOING PUBLIC WITH THE PUSHTUNISTAN AND ARMS SUPPLY ISSUES ARE OBVIOUSLY SINCERE BUT IT SEEMS TO US HE EXAGGERATES THE PROBLEMS. OUR UNDERSTANDING FROM THE INDIAN EMBASSY IS THAT THEY PREFER A FAIRLY BROAD AND WIDE RANGING STATEMENT COVERING A VARIETY OF ISSUES. AS FAR AS DACCA IS CONCERNED, WE ASSUME THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN ARRIVING AT AN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 226027

UNCONTROVERSIAL JOINT STATEMENT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

THE KABUL STOP IS IN ANY EVENT SO BRIEF THAT WE WOULD
THINK WE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN WORKING OUT AN AGREED

AND GENERALLY WORDED STATEMENT WITH THE AFGHANS THAT
AVOIDED MENTIONING PUSHTUNISTAN BUT FOCUSED INSTEAD ON
SOME GENERAL REFERENCE TO OUR GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS
AND MUTUAL INTEREST IN PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA.
THE AFGHANS HAVE INDICATED TO US IN KABUL THAT THEY WOULD
LIKE SOME KIND OF JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT BUT THEY HAVE
NOT BEEN SPECIFIC AS YET.

3. AS FOR ISLAMABAD, WE WOULD THINK ANY JOINT STATEMENT
WOULD NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PAK SECURITY CONCERNS
BUT WE THINK WE COULD SELL THE GOP ON A FAIRLY GENERAL
BUT FIRMLY WORDED REAFFIRMATION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR
PAKISTAN'S INTEGRITY WITHOUT SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE
ARMS POLICY ISSUE.

4. OUR INCLINATION IS THEREFORE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE
IDEA OF JOINT STATEMENTS FOR EACH STOP ALONG THE LINES
INDICATED ABOVE. WE HAVE NOT YET REPEATED BYROADE'S
CABLE TO AMBASSADORS BOSTER AND ELIOT.

INGERSOLL

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NNN

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